



Water Quality NewsFlash

Published by California Department of Transportation, Division of Environmental Analysis, Office of Storm Water Policy

June 5, 2006

Number 06-23

Treatment BMPs – Caltrans report summarizes technology review – The technologies assessed include the latest innovations in permanent storm water treatment and control, as well as existing technologies currently in use by municipalities and Departments of Transportation in other states. Technologies range from below-grade infiltration to drain inserts. The report includes 127 technology fact sheets. In addition to new technologies, these include past and ongoing pilot technologies as well as approved technologies currently in the Caltrans Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP). Favorable evaluations of new technologies can lead to Caltrans pilot studies to gather cost and performance data. Successfully piloted technologies may then be approved and added to the Department's SWMP for use throughout the state.
<http://www.mastep.net/documents/caltrans%20treatment%20bmp%20technology%20report.pdf>

LA MS4 Permit – Changes proposed to implement dry weather

bacteria TMDL – The staff of Los Angeles Regional Board is proposing that the Board “consider reopening the County of Los Angeles Municipal Storm Water Discharge Permit to include a dry weather prohibition on flows containing bacteria to the Santa Monica Bay.” The intent is to support implementation of the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Dry-Weather TMDL by including the waste load allocations from the TMDL. As restrictive as it sounds, the actual prohibition is that the discharges result in sampling showing shoreline exceedances in excess of those specified in the TMDL.

The waste load allocations include the following: 1) During summer dry weather (April 1 to October 31), discharges shall not cause an exceedance of the single sample bacteria objectives (from the Ocean Plan); 2) During winter dry weather (November 1 to March 31), discharges shall not cause exceedance of the lesser of exceedance days at a designated reference site; or exceedance days based on past monitoring data. In addition, discharges are prohibited from causing exceedances of the geometric mean bacteria objectives at any time. Compliance may be difficult depending on the proximity of the monitoring stations to runoff locations. The Dry Weather TMDL is considered significantly easier to implement than the Wet Weather TMDL. Comments on the permit amendments are due June 20; posted at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/programs/stormwater/lams4_CAS004001.html

Webcasts – Alternative Practices for Highway Stormwater Management –

The Izaak Walton League, with support from the Federal Highway Administration and EPA, is presenting a four-part Webcast series on highway stormwater management using alternative practices such as low impact design (LID). The slides from the first introductory presentation are posted and focus on activities at the Washington State and Maryland Departments of Transportation. http://www.iwla.org/fileadmin/template/docs/webc/hwy_strmwtr_presentations.pdf Interestingly, Maryland DOT has shifted away from infiltration due to failures at many facilities and is focusing more on swales and other BMPs. The next Webcast is June 15 and will address planning issues. To sign-up go to: <http://www.iwla.org/index.php?id=179>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>